

**DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL**

*The California Highway Patrol is a law enforcement and traffic safety agency reporting to Business, Transportation and Housing Agency Secretary Maria Contreras-Sweet and Governor Gray Davis.*

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## **CHP Cautions Motorists as Energy Shortage Continues**

**SACRAMENTO** – As the state’s energy shortage continues, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) is urging motorists to use caution when driving, especially at intersections controlled by traffic signals and railroad and light rail crossings.

“Motorists must take warnings of rotating outages seriously and drive alert using extreme caution,” advises CHP Commissioner Dwight “Spike” Helmick. While rotating outages are not anticipated over the weekend, the CHP advises motorists to be prepared and keep emergency supplies in their vehicle, including jumper cables, a flashlight and extra batteries.

The effect of any outages on traffic control systems could vary throughout the state. According to the Public Utilities Commission, all railroad crossings are supported by back-up power sources. The CHP advises that if you encounter an uncontrolled intersection, treat it as a four-way stop. Remember the basic rules of the road; do not insist on the right-of-way, stay alert, and always drive with patience and courtesy. If you experience difficulty reading darkened street signs, do not impede traffic or stop in the road to read a sign. Pull to the side, completely off the roadway and to a safe place before consulting a map or using a wireless telephone.

“We know that a power shortage is a serious matter. We want to assure all California motorists that the CHP is on the job and prepared for any situation that may arise,” says Helmick.

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**Media Note:** The California Independent System Operator Web site is an excellent source for current status information regarding rotating outages and conservation tips, [www.caiso.com](http://www.caiso.com)